Russia Trip Plan By LBJ Reported

8/10/64

By Carroll Kirkpatrick
Washington Post Staff Writer

AUSTIN, Aug. 9—White House Press Secretary George Christian branded as "speculative" today a news report that the President may visit Russia if he can wrap up a diplomatic package paving the way for a Moscow visit.

Reports have persisted for some weeks that the President is eager to visit Russia and that he also wants to make another trip to Latin America.

Today the Wall Street Journal said Mr. Johnson is trying to arrange a package coupling a halt to all bombing of North Vietnam with a promise from Hanoi to refrain from new attacks on South Vietnamese cities.

Christian branded the story "speculative" as did the State Department, yet the belief persisted in some quarters that the President has been busy concocting a variety of new initiatives.

The President bounced back into the news today with the visit of Vice President Humphrey and disclosure that GOP Presidential candidate Richard M. Nixon and Vice Presidential nominee Spiro T. Agnew would meet at the Texas ranch Saturday with Mr. Johnson, Secretary of State Dean Rusk, CIA Director Richard Helms and Vietnam Negotiator Cyrus Vance.

He did not, however, issue any invitation to Sen. Eugene J. McCarthy (D-Minn.), who by chance also is in Texas tonight, campaigning in Houston.

As Vice President Humphrey departed early today, three other visitors flew into the LBJ ranch from Washington. They were Robert C. Weaver, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development; Edgar Kaiser, chairman of the President's Commission on Urban Housing; and Special Assistant Joseph A. Califano.

Christian said they discussed housing matters.

Earlier, the President appointed Robert P. Boyle, now deputy assistant administrator of the office of international aviation affairs in the Federal Aviation Administration, to be United States representative on the council of the civil aviation organizations in Montreal.

Boyle will succeed Nelson B. David, whose retirement the President accepted today. David has held the post since 1957.